

EUGENE BLM

“EYE TO THE FUTURE”

Planning and Project Focus

June 2001

A Note from the District Manager

This edition of the Eugene “Eye to the Future” is part of our continuing effort to keep you informed of ongoing and proposed activities on the Eugene District.

It is our intent to increase awareness of BLM proposals, issues, activities and opportunities we think are important to the public. More importantly, we are seeking ideas, comments and participation from those who are, or may be affected by our management decisions.

Our District’s employees continue active involvement on several key issues including: Resource Management Plan (RMP) implementation, Watershed Restoration Projects, Land Acquisition and Management at the West Eugene Wetlands, Wildfire Prevention and Planning, Invasive Plant(Weeds)Species Management and participation on Advisory Committees and Councils.

Several new initiatives, which are also receiving our attention include: developing a strategy for Invasive Plant Species Management; implementing the National Wildland/Urban Interface Plan, and taking steps to reduce hazardous fuel loads; and coordinating with Linn, Benton, Douglas, and Lane counties on funding projects related to the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. As you read this edition, you will find descriptions of many different types of projects related to these key issues and initiatives.

Thank you for your interest in BLM’s management of Public Lands. If you have any questions on information in this edition, do not hesitate to call upon us for clarification or explanation. Your input helps us to design and implement better projects that enhance the health of the land and meet the needs of our nation.

You are also invited to visit our web page at www.edo.or.blm.gov.

Julia Dougan, District Manager

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS

<1>Conversations in the Courtyard

Come join us August 11, 2001, from 11:00 - 1:00 at the Federal Building Courtyard. Julia Dougan, Eugene BLM District Manager, and Darrel Kenops, Williamette National Forest Supervisor, will be available to talk with the public one-on-one. Other BLM and Forest Service people will also be there to talk to you about our public lands. For more information contact, Patti Rodgers at 541-465-6450 or Trish Wilson at 541-683-6448.

<2>Invasive Plant Species Strategy

Invasive plants (weeds) are becoming a major problem on lands managed by the Eugene District. In an effort to address this problem, we are joining forces with the Salem District and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to develop an integrated approach to Invasive Plant Species Management. The goal of the Strategy is to reduce the density, expansiveness and the impacts posed by undesirable plant invasions, so other resource management objectives can be successfully implemented. The Strategy will take into account the needs of local communities and it will encourage local stewardship. The Strategy will be based upon reasonable expectations that are sustainable. For additional information you may contact Diana Bus at the Eugene District Office at 683-6600.

<3> Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act

The intent of the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000" is to provide rural counties with a predictable level of funding for local schools and roads, and to strengthen the connection of communities to the land and water that sustains them. Funding will be provided in this legislation under three "titles." The first is "Title I," which funds schools and roads. This includes 80 to 85 percent of the total funding. Counties then must decide whether to dedicate the remaining 15 to 20 percent to "Title II" or "Title III" projects or return the remaining amount to the United States General Treasury.

"Title II" funding will be dedicated to projects that benefit

resources on Federal Lands and must be reviewed by a fifteen-member Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC recommends projects for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. "Title III" projects are community oriented, such as search and rescue, environmental education, community forestry, and community service work. These projects require a 45-day public comment period but are not reviewed by a RAC.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be coordinating "Title II" projects for the Eugene BLM RAC, but any citizen can submit a project for consideration. "Title III" projects are coordinated by the local county governments.

Membership of the Eugene RAC is in the final states of selection and a list of potential members will be forwarded to the Oregon State Office of the BLM soon. Members will be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and the first meeting of the RAC is expected to be held in Eugene later this summer. For more information please visit our website at www.edo.or.blm.gov.

MCKENZIE RESOURCE AREA

LOST CREEK WATERSHED

<1>Get Lost Timber Sale

Contact: Don Wilbur (683-6994)

Location: T.20S., R.01W., Sections 17 and 21

The proposed EA for the Get Lost Timber Sale would contain areas originally evaluated in the Lost Creek FY 99 Analysis Area EA. The proposal would include commercially thinning approximately 350 acres of upland conifers and a density management treatment of approximately 25 acres of riparian reserve. Harvest systems to be evaluated would be ground based, cable and helicopter. Timber harvest volume is expected to be approximately 3 million board feet.

Status: Work on this EA is to begin in June.

MOHAWK WATERSHED

<2>Mohawk-Area Trails

Contact: Liz Aleman (683-7578)

Location: Showalter, Cash, Crooked, Shotgun, Seeley, and Drury Creek drainages

Work is underway to continue multiple trail operations and maintenance actions within the project area. The State of Oregon All Terrain Vehicle Grant and BLM funds will be used to sign trails and roads, improve informal staging areas and access roads, maintain and patrol trails etc.

Trail planning beyond the 27-mile loop system of roads and trails described in the Shotgun environmental assessment (EA OR090-EA-00-04) will not occur this summer. Implementing a full *operations and maintenance* schedule will be the focus instead. Trail planning outside of the 27-mile loop system may begin sometime after this fall.

Status: ongoing

<3>Special Recreation Permit, Oregon Trails Promotions

Contact: Liz Aleman (683-7578)

Location: Mohawk-area trails

Administration of a mountain biking proposal received from applicant Randy Dreiling is underway. The applicant is requesting use of existing trails and roads for a series of four competitive events. Proposed dates are June 30, July 1, August 4 & 5. A total of 200 competitors and spectators are anticipated per weekend event.

<4>Crooked Creek Timber Sale

Contact: Jack Zwiesler (683-6497)

Location: T.15S., R.02W., Sections 22 and 23

The BLM is proposing to commercially thin 93 acres of upland conifers and perform density management treatment on approximately 52 acres of riparian reserve. Approximately 0.6 miles of road would be constructed. Approximately half of the new road construction would be decommissioned along with approximately 0.7 miles of existing road. Timber harvest volume removed would be approximately 1.1 million board feet.

Status: The public comment period has ended for the EA. A decision on what alternative to implement has been made.

MCKENZIE WATERSHED

<5>Cedar Flats Timber Sale

Contact: Jill Williams (683-6164)

Location: T. 18 S., R. 1 W., Sections. 5 and 9, T. 17 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 31 and T. 18 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 1.

The Cedar Flats Timber Sale proposes to Thin approximately 399 acres of upland conifers, age 45- 60, and a density management treatment of approximately 22 acres of riparian reserve.

The proposed action identifies 1.15 miles of new road construction (primarily building a ridge-top road to replace a mid-slope road), 0.97 miles of road improvement, and 2.95 miles of road decommissioning (includes road mileage to be decommissioned due to new ridge-top road). Several mid-slope roads will be relocated to the ridge top to decrease riparian interactions and to set up a more permanent, long-term road system for future thinning in this area. Harvest systems evaluated would be ground based and cable. Timber harvest volume is expected to be approximately 3 million board feet.

Status: Work on this EA is currently in progress

<6>Camp Creek Watershed

Contact: Don Wilbur (683-6994)

Location: North of Walterville

Camp Creek Watershed is approximately 20,000 acres. BLM administers approximately 4,000 acres of public land in this watershed. The information that comes from a watershed analysis provides the basis for future land management activities, including monitoring and restoration programs. Also included in the watershed analysis are recommendations for managing the transportation system. Watershed analysis is not a "Plan" but a process of gathering information to be used for future planning.

Status: The analysis is scheduled to begin in August. If you have information to share, or need information

on the process please let us know.

<8>Lower McKenzie Transportation Management EA

Contact: Don Wilbur (683-6994)

Location: North of Walterville

The McKenzie Resource Area purposes to implement various road decommissioning and maintenance projects in the Lower McKenzie watershed. The Lower McKenzie watershed starts at the east side of Springfield, Oregon and covers approximately 3 ½ mile ribbon of land paralleling the McKenzie River on the north and south side up to the town of Nimrod. This area is approximately 108,000 acres in size, which 24% of the acres is managed by the BLM. A Watershed Analysis for most of this area was prepared in 1996, with the remainder to be completed this summer. Transportation Management Recommendations have been completed and will be the basis for the proposed action. Road maintenance levels and road closures discussed in this transportation management recommendation would be implemented over a 5 year period of time. Approximately 20 miles of road would be proposed to be decommissioned from a total of approximately 117 miles of BLM managed roads in this watershed.

Status: ongoing

CALAPOOYA WATERSHED

<9>Calapooya Timber Sale

Contact: Jack Zwiesler (683-6497)

Location: T.14S., R.02W., Sections 28 and 35; T.14S., R.01W., Sections 31 and 33; T.15S., R.01W., Sections 1, 5 and 9; and T.14S., R.01E., Section 35.

The Calapooya timber Sale would be a commercial thinning of approximately 500 acres. Permanent and temporary roads would be constructed. The temporary roads and some existing roads would be blocked and decommissioned. Riparian vegetation management will also be considered. Timber harvest volume is expected to be approximately 4 million board feet.

Status: Work on the Calapooya Timber Sale EA will begin in this Fall and the EA is expected to go to the public this winter.

SOUTH VALLEY RESOURCE AREA

SIUSLAW RIVER WATERSHED

<1>Right-of-Way Agreement R-1022 Amendment 5

Contact: Don Meckley (683-6972)

Location: T.20S., R5W., Section 31

The Proposed Action involves a proposal by Weyerhaeuser Company (WeyCo) to amend an existing reciprocal right-of-way agreement. The amendment would include the use of existing roads by WeyCo and rights to construct two short roads in Section 31 in order to access their land in T.20S, R6W., section 36. WeyCo currently has legal access to their land in section 36 using existing roads; however, those roads would require substantial maintenance and they have several stream crossings. By amending the R-1022 agreement, WeyCo could get better access to their land, and be able to decommission roads with several stream crossings.

Status: The Decision Record was signed on May 7, 2001. Project implementation will begin during the summer of 2001.

<2>Fawn Creek LSR Restoration Project

Contact: Richard Hardt (683-6690)

Location: T20S, R5W, Sec 17

The proposed project area is located in the Coast Range Late-Successional Reserve (LSR0267). The area being proposed for treatment is a densely stocked Douglas-fir stand in which treatments would be designed to accelerate development of late-successional characteristics.

Status: The environmental assessment is in preparation, and is scheduled to be available for public review in mid- to late-July, 2001.

<3>Douglas Creek Timber Sale

Contact: Alan Corbin (683-6792)

Location: T20S, R5W, Sec 3

This proposal includes a density management thinning and fisheries habitat improvements on a 140-acre parcel along Douglas Creek, a tributary to the Siuslaw River. The project area lies approximately 3 miles NW of Lorane.

Status: An environmental assessment was prepared and released for public review in March 1998. A final decision regarding this action is anticipated to be made in August 2001, pending consultation with the US National Marine Fisheries Service.

<4>Tucker Creek Timber Sale

Contact: Janet Zentner (683-6795)

Location: T20S, R4W, Sec 27

This project would consist of a density management thinning on approximately 105 acres in the Siuslaw River watershed.

Status: The environmental assessment is being prepared. A final decision is not anticipated until winter of 2001-2002.

BIG RIVER WATERSHED

<5>Jasper Creek Timber Sale

Contact: Peter O'Toole (683-6786)

Location: T22S, R3W, Sec 35

The proposed action is to complete a density management thinning on approximately 150 acres located about 4 miles southeast of London Springs in the Big River watershed.

Status: An environmental assessment was prepared and released for public review in July, 1999. A final decision regarding this action is pending the results of surveys for Survey and Manage species, but is anticipated to occur in Spring 2002.

<6>Twin Prairie Timber Sale

Contact: Janet Zentner (683-6795)

Location: T22S, R3W, Sec 3

The proposal is to complete a density management thinning on roughly 150 acres. The project area is in the Big River watershed, about one mile east of Cottage Grove Lake.

Status: An environmental assessment is being prepared and is anticipated to be available for public review in late spring, 2001. A final decision is anticipated in summer, 2002.

<7>Laurel Curves Timber Sale

Contact: Peter O'Toole (683-6786)

Location: T22S, R3W, Sec 23

This proposal is examining a density management thinning on 180 acres of the Matrix Land Use Allocation in the Big River watershed, about 3 miles east of London Springs.

Status: The environmental assessment is being prepared. A final decision is not anticipated until winter, 2001-2002.

LOWER COAST FORK WILLAMETTE RIVER WATERSHED

<8>ValleyFringeRestoration Demonstration Project

Contact: Richard Hardt (683-6690)

Location: T19S, R4W, Sec 23

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate oak/pine habitat enhancement techniques that could be applied on similar habitats in the foothills of the Willamette Valley.

Status: Project design and site analysis will occur during the summer, 2001. Scoping will occur during late summer, with an environmental assessment anticipated for public review during the winter of 2001-2002.

ROW RIVER WATERSHED

<9> Temporary Road Use Permit

Contact: Rick Colvin (683-6659)

Location: T20S, R2W, Sec 31

T21S, R2W, Sec 5

The proposed temporary road use permit would allow a private landowner access to private land using BLM roads 21-2-5 and 21-2-31, and would authorize construction of approximately 110 feet of new road to reach the private land. Road use is requested for a two year period, after which the new construction would be subsoiled and rehabilitated.

Status: An environmental assessment is being

prepared, and is scheduled for public review in July, 2001.

COAST RANGE RESOURCE AREA

UPPER SIUSLAW WATERSHED

<1>Whittaker Creek Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project

Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

Location: Whittaker Creek - T18S R8W Sections 28, 31, 32

The proposed action is to remove five existing culverts and replace one with new, three with two low water crossings or culverts (not decided to date) and leave one as a removal only (end of road 18-8-21) in four separate locations within the Whittaker Creek drainage for FY2001.

Status: An EA was available March 21st for a 30 day comment period. The Decision Record is pending.

<2>Middle Siuslaw - Oxbow Creek Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration Plan

Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

Location: Oxbow Creek T20S R7W Sections 3,4,9

The purpose of this restoration plan is to improve the quality and quantity of appropriate habitat in the Oxbow Creek drainage to benefit all fish species, other aquatic organisms, riparian plant communities, and wildlife species found here. Instream placements of wood and rock may be started in August or September 2001, after removal/installation of culverts projects in all three sections (culverts project begins in July). The decommissioning of Road 20-7-4 will run concurrently with the installation of the new culverts in section 4 (Road 19-7-25.1)

Status: The Environmental Assessment (EA) was available for public review April 4th for 30 days. The Decision Record is pending.

<3>Bierce Creek Aquatic Habitat Project

Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

Location: Bierce Creek - T19S R7W Sec. 29

For FY2001, channel structures will be placed in the channel to raise the channel elevation and increase the complexity of habitat in said channel. The project is expected to commence in July-August 2001.

Status: The Environmental Assessment (EA) was available for a 30 day public review starting March 14th. The Decision Record is pending.

<4>North/Pugh Creeks Aquatic Habitat Restoration Plan

Contact: Leo Poole (683-6289)

Location: North and Pugh Creeks - T19S R8W Sections 13 and 11 respectively

For FY2001, channel structures will be placed in the channel to raise the channel elevation and increase the complexity of habitat in said channel. The project is expected to commence in July-August 2001.

Status: The Environmental Assessment (EA) was available for public review March 14th. The Decision Record is pending.

<5>Clay Creek Recreation Site Water System Upgrade

Contact: Art Emmons (683-6787)

Location: Section 19, T. 19 S., R. 7 W.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eugene District is planning to upgrade the water system at the Clay Creek Recreation Site.

Status: An Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for public review. A 15-day review period on the EA and FONSI ends on June 28, 2001.

<6>Whittaker Creek Recreation Site Water System Upgrade

Contact: Art Emmons (683-6787)

Location: Section 21, T. 18 S., R. 8 W.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eugene District is planning to upgrade the water system at the Whittaker Creek Recreation Site.

Status: An Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for public review. A 15-day review period on the EA and FONSI ends on July 5, 2001.

DEADWOOD CREEK WATERSHED

<7>Schoolhouse Trail

Contact: Dennis Smith (683-6296)

Location: Coast Range RA

A two phase project, the first trail segment would traverse approximately 2/3 mile of mostly existing trail to a viewpoint and picnic area. Trail would be improved and a small footbridge installed. The second segment would lead hikers southwest along a ridge to another viewpoint/rest before the descent down to the Deadwood Creek road a short distance from the trailhead.

Status: Scoping comments are welcome regarding alternatives, issues, or concerns. Environmental assessment has been put on hold until right-of-way survey can be completed.

LONG TOM WATERSHED

<8>Long Tom road decommissioning

Contact: Gary Cairns/Eric Meyers (683-6499 or 683-6771)

Location: Coast Range RA

Close roads with earth barricades. Weatherproof closed roads by installing waterbars and removing stream culverts. This multi-year project should begin around August/September.

Status: An Environmental Assessment is expected to be available for public review and comment in June 2001.

<9>West Eugene Wetlands Recreation, Access and Environmental Education Plan

Contact: Joe Williams (683-6121)

Location: West Eugene Wetlands, Coast Range RA

Over the past year, a team representing the City of Eugene, Lane Council of Governments, and The Bureau of Land Management have been writing a plan to provide for public use of the public lands in the West Eugene Wetlands. As a result of public meetings and responses to mailings last summer, major issues were identified to focus the planning effort. The major issues were: what, where and how should recreation opportunities, public access and educational opportunities be provided on the 1,200 acres of publicly owned lands in the wetlands area, while protecting the wetlands natural functions and ecosystems.

In late December a draft plan was completed, and this plan is being reviewed by an interdisciplinary team to assess the environmental impacts of implementing the proposed plan.

Status: Three public comments received contributed to a revised EA. The Decision Record notice will be June 2001.

<10>Yurt Construction - Danebo Demonstration Area - West Eugene Wetlands

Contact: Jean Battle (683-6993)

Location: WEW Office site

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), West Eugene Wetlands office of the Eugene District is proposing to construct a yurt on the grounds of the Danebo Demonstration Area located at 751 S. Danebo in Eugene. The yurt would serve as a field classroom that would shelter educational sessions on site at the wetlands.

Status: An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed and is available for public review. A 15-day review period on the EA ends on June 28, 2001.

<11>Templeton Survey Hiatus

Contact : Diana Bus (683-6450)

Location: Government lots 1 and 2, Township 16 South, Range 6 West, Section 13.

The proposed action is to sell this isolated 3.89 acre tract which has been recently discovered as a result of a survey

hiatus. The land would be sold by direct sale to the adjacent land owners at fair market value.

Status: The action is being assessed in a Environmental Assessment which is currently being evaluated in the Interdisciplinary Team stage.

<12>Little Al Commercial Thinning

Contact: Phillip Redlinger (683-6977)

Location: T.15S, R.6W, Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18

The project proposal is a commercial thinning in the Matrix Land Use Allocation and would include thinning within the Riparian Reserve to accelerate tree growth. The proposed thinning would encompass approximately 155 acres (Unit # 1 would be approximately 80 acres, Unit #2 would be approximately 30 acres and Unit #3 approximately 45 acres).

Status: Surveys for survey and manage species have been completed. The Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to be available for public review in June/ July 2001.

LAKE CREEK WATERSHED

<13>Sammy Hill Density Management

Contact: Phillip Redlinger (683-6977)

Location: T.16S, R.8W, Sections 1

The project proposal is primarily a density management treatment on approximately 206 acres within the Late-successional Reserve (LSR) to accelerate the development of late-successional forest characteristics. The project is designed to promote tree growth, large crown development, and to increase diversity of stocking levels and size classes within the stand or landscape.

Status: Surveys for survey and manage species are complete. A revised Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to accompany the Decision Record in July 2001.

WILDCAT WATERSHED

<14>Haynes Head - BLM/Oregon Department of Forestry Cooperative Agreement.

Contact: Eric Meyers (683-6499)

Location: T.17S, R.7W, Section 17

The project proposal is to grant ODF a permit to construct approximately 1865 feet of road on BLM managed land.

Status: An EA is expected to be completed and available for public review by July / August 2001.